

**CITY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS/STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
March 8, 2011**

The Business/Study Session of the Monroe City Council was held on March 8, 2011, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robert Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Balk, Rodriguez, Cudaback, Tuttle, Stima, Williams, and Goering.

Staff present: Brazel, Feilberg, Quenzer, Smith, Nelson, Lande, Wright, Roberts, and Martinson.

City Attorney Zach Lell was not present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Traffic Enforcement Cameras: A. Citizen Testimony**

Mayor Zimmerman explained the history of the traffic enforcement cameras, including the process and contract being signed. The City held up its process while a lawsuit was pending to ensure they were within the law. At the end of last year, several citizens came to Council and suggested that the process didn't allow citizens to address the issue. Council agreed to hold this public hearing, to allow citizens to address Council on this subject. There is an agreement with RedFlex in place and there are matters that the City Council has asked him not to comment on. He also explained that there was a letter received from an individual that would be submitted for the record, but wouldn't be read into record.

Mayor Zimmerman opened the citizen testimony portion of the public hearing.

John Morgan, 21005 Woods Creek Road, Monroe, stated that his understanding was that the cameras would operate when the lights were flashing at the schools. However, in 19 passages through that area, he has seen only one child in the area and one walking with an adult. He asked what the rationale was of those lights operating under that situation, and, who is responsible for that schedule.

Mike Larson, 13609 191<sup>st</sup> Ave SE, Monroe, is against traffic enforcement cameras and feels that it is a revenue source. He feels that residents should have the chance to vote on it.

Rick Dean, 337 S. Madison Street, Monroe, supports the red light cameras; they free up the officers for other things in town. They are effective; but should be on only just before and just after school.

Diana Accetturo, 19414 208<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Monroe, is in favor of the cameras. She is a crossing guard and has seen cars go through and not paying attention to the kids. She submitted a document with signatures from the PTA meeting in support of traffic cameras.

Greg Accetturo, 19414 208<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Monroe, supports red light cameras in school zones. It's a good way to reinforce the laws. It's fine, even if it's a revenue stream.

Tim Eyman, Mukilteo, explained what happened in Mukilteo. He feels that voters should decide. They are collecting signatures to put this to a vote in Monroe.

Steve Jensen, 17041 155<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Monroe, has lived in Monroe for 15 years. He feels that they have done fine without cameras. If cameras stay, make the cost of tickets lower and only flash during school hours.

Denise Nilsson, 504 Powell, has been in Monroe a little over a year. She got caught by the camera in Lynnwood and got a notice from Arizona. She feels that tickets should come from a company from within the state. Lights should operate only during school hours.

Rosie Tatel, 14969 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Monroe, supports the traffic cameras and feels that the fines should be higher, not lower. If people go the speed limit, they won't have a problem. She also wants cameras on Highway 2 and doesn't want it to go to a public vote.

Ty Balascio, 13402 231<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE, Monroe, moved to Monroe in 1997. He isn't sure that the data showing we would be safer with traffic cameras is correct. The cameras won't stop drunk drivers and the \$124 tickets are the same for 21 mph as it is for 95 mph. He would like this to be put on the ballot. If it's right for Monroe, he would support it.

Darrell Lord, PO Box 302 Bothell, WA, is a member Freedom Forum Supper Club and chairman of the Washington Safety Committee. His is against traffic cameras and feels that they are there to condition people. He feels citizens should make the choice on traffic cameras.

Mark Magee, 13523 Muir Drive SE, stated that he is not here to argue pro or con on traffic cameras. This issue should be put on the ballot and leave it up to the voters. He doesn't see a problem with the revenue stream; but feels that people should be given a ticket by an officer.

Harold Dater, 205 N. Kelsey, sees speeding traffic through the school zone daily. They also see cars run the red light on the highway all of the time. He feels that red light cameras would help.

Richard Pratt, Snohomish, is against cameras doing law enforcement. People drive other people's cars all the time. If you are towing a trailer with a pickup, you can't stop in time. He feels it's about revenue.

Tim Eyman, Mukilteo, stated that, after the initiative passed in Mukilteo, they put up speed indicator lights near the school, which has helped people to slow down.

The motion was made by Councilperson Rodriguez and seconded by Councilperson Cudaback, to close the citizen testimony portion of the public hearing. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

Mayor Zimmerman thanked the 12 people who spoke tonight. He understands the emotions, thoughts, and opinions that are held by all. He appreciates meeting openly to hear the differing opinions. On behalf of Council, as they have considered this over the last few years, their decision was based on their goal and desire to make the community safe. He assured citizens that their voices were heard. He stated that he will follow-up on some questions and concerns voiced tonight.

The motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Rodriguez, to close the citizen testimony portion of the public hearing. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that there would be a five-minute recess to allow people to leave the meeting, if they wished to do so.

MEETING RECESSED FOR A FIVE-MINUTE BREAK:	7:59 p.m.
MEETING RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION:	8:05 p.m.

Mayor Pro-tem Goering explained that Mayor Zimmerman was ill and was leaving the meeting to go home.

The motion was made by Councilperson Williams and seconded by Councilperson Rodriguez, to extend the Business portion of the meeting past 8:00 p.m. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

#### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

Joel Selling, 12003 Woods Creek Road, stated that a change in the sign policy would be unfair. Lowe's and Fred Meyer came to Monroe knowing the rules and have been successful. Larger signs are going to take more business from town. Retailers coming in know the rules and should operate in good faith. Don't change the rules just for North Kelsey.

Steve Jensen, 17041 155<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Monroe, addressed council regarding signage. Lowe's came into town and seems to be doing well. The 200 square foot sign size seems to be fine for their 139,000 square foot building and 12,000 square foot facade. Another retailer at 155,000 square feet and a smaller facade wants a 300 square foot sign. It shouldn't justify a 50% larger sign. He is opposed to making changes to the sign code.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Associate Planner Wright gave a brief overview explaining the plans to expand the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The planned improvements require a Special Use Permit for an essential public facility and Shoreline Conditional Use Permit. The Hearing Examiner held a public hearing on February 24, 2011, and recommended

approval of both permits on February 28, 2011. Council's decision on the Special Use Permit is final, while Council's decision on the Shoreline Conditional Use Permit is advisory. The Department of Ecology is the final approval body for these permits.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Williams and seconded by Councilperson Cudaback, to adopt Resolution #2011/008 adopting the Hearing Examiner's findings of fact, conclusions of law, recommendations, and conditions of approval for Special Use Permit (SU2010-02) and Shoreline Conditional Use Permit (SL2010-02) for the City of Monroe Waste Water Treatment Plant. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

### **STUDY SESSION ITEMS**

#### **Discussion: Proposed North Kelsey Sign Code Amendment**

Associate Planner Wright gave a brief overview, explaining the proposed changes to the sign code. The request had been to increase the size of signs for large retailers. There are three categories, currently; they are suggesting a fourth category for buildings over 55,000 square feet. He explained the proposed changes and the drawings that were distributed to Council. Staff is looking for direction from Council.

Councilpersons Balk, Tuttle, Cudaback suggested that there be no action on this topic. The majority (Councilpersons Williams, Rodriguez, Goering, and Stima) would like to bring this topic back next week for further discussion.

#### **Utility Rates Overview**

Finance Director Nelson gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding revenue bonds and where the City needs inefficiencies corrected. She explained that a lot of capital maintenance needs to be ongoing and the plans spell it out. She explained the various projects needed and about the financing of those projects. She suggested that they take the recommendations of the rate study company. In order to obtain funding through bonds, they would have to increase sewer rates.

Public Works Director Feilberg explained that the Hill Street project was higher due to NPDES requirements. Director Nelson explained further about the proposed revenue bonds and rate increases. She suggested that they adopt a funding plan for the next five years, to protect the infrastructure from political will. It would also take the burden off Council.

John Lande, WWTP Manager, explained the risks and problems with the 30-year old WWTP infrastructure. There are health, safety, and environmental issues. The work needs to be done all at once to remain most efficient and safe.

Jakeh Roberts, Utilities Operations Manager, explained their in-house efforts to track where problems are occurring and projects that are in place to fix some of the problems.

After discussion, Council requested that staff bring back information showing all rates together and the pros and cons and what could happen if any of the projects aren't done.

## Department Reports

Finance Director Nelson explained the property tax distribution for Monroe. It provides good information when talking to the public. Only 10% comes to Monroe; 60% goes to education. The City provides a lot of services for the 10% it receives.

## Draft Agenda/March 15, 2011 Council Business Meeting

City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for the March 15, 2011 Council meeting. The interim ordinance was moved to Final Action from the Consent Agenda.

It was suggested that the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant tour be held on either April 12<sup>th</sup> or April 26<sup>th</sup>.

City Administrator Brazel explained that March 15<sup>th</sup> public hearing on the development agreement could be moved to March 29<sup>th</sup>.

The motion was made by Councilperson Stima and seconded by Councilperson Rodriguez, to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m. On vote,

Motion carried 4/3.

Councilpersons Balk, Tuttle, and Cudaback voted nay.

After further discussion, City Administrator Brazel stated that the public hearing would continue on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Pro-tem Goering explained that there was a need to go into Executive Session for approximately 10 minutes to discuss collective bargaining as authorized by RCW 42.30.140 (4).

MEETING RECESSED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:	10:03 p.m.
EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS EXTENDED	
MEETING RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION:	10:20 p.m.

No further business was discussed.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:21 p.m.

  
Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk

  
Kurt Goering, Mayor Pro-Tempore